Christians and Politics: Part One

Christian Bland | 11/3/24

I. Frameworks for Christianity and Politics

A. Christians can and should be involved in _____ (WCF 23.2; Romans 16:23); but how?

B. Theonomy

i. Theonomy is particularly concerned with enacting and enforcing Israel's _____

ii. Theonomy should be rejected, because the civil laws of Israel "_____ together with the State of that people" (WCF 19.4).

C. Christian Nationalism

i. Basic idea: America should be a Christian nation, with Christian rulers and laws.

ii. 1797 Treaty of Peace between USA and Tripoli: "The government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the _____" (11).

iii. Christian nationalism is based on an unbiblical _____ and _____.

D. Two-Kingdoms

i. Two-kingdoms isn't just historically Reformed, it is historically _____.

1. Luther's treatise *On Secular Authority*: "The two parts into which the children of Adam are divided, the one the kingdom of God under Christ, the other the kingdom of the world under [secular] authority."

2. Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*: "Man is under a twofold government" (4.20.1), "The one we may call the spiritual kingdom, the other, the political kingdom" (3.19.15).

ii. What does this mean for Christians engaging in culture and politics?

1. The _____ as an institution may never engage in politics.

2. But _____ as individuals are free to engage in culture and politics.

iii. BCO on spirituality of the church: "The power of the Church is exclusively spiritual; that of the State includes the exercise of force…. They are as planets moving in concentric orbits" (3-4).

II. Biblical Expectations for Christians in the World

A. "Whoever does not bear his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (Lk 14:27).

i. "A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20).

B. Scripture never promises a _____, never tells Christians to expect victory.

i. Scripture tells Christians to expect persecution and suffering, not victory; that doesn't change when _____ is established.

III. Practical Application: The Christian's Hope